upgraded to the grade of Senior Principal Private Secretary corresponding to the seven Secretary level appointments to which the Senior PPS could be posted. Orders to this effect have been issued on 19th January, 2000.

Suspension of IAF's daily mission

2135. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF have, since long, suspended its daily mission to collect information about the Indian borders and that during the Kargil conflict also such missions remained suspended;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor, stating the period for which such IAF mission remained suspended; and

(c) whether such missions are being resumed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The reconnaissance missions of the Indian Air Force were never suspended.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Scrutinising Findings of CAG for post 1985 Defence purchases

2136. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Defence has constituted a Special Group of Officers to scrutinise all important observations and findings of the Comptroller and Auditor General for the last fifteen years;

(b) whether it is for the purpose of fixing responsibility for lapses, delays, corrupt practices, talcing administrative, disciplinary and legal action and if not, for what purpose; and

(c) what is the time-frame stipulated for this scrutiny?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Though no specific time frame has been stipulated, the Group has already commenced scrutiny of the C&AG's Reports and will complete it in the shortest possible time.